

## Message Text

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14 MAY 1977

TODAY THE DAILES, "PRESENCIA" & "HOY", AS WELL AS THE AFTERNOON DAILY "ULTIMA HORA" IN YESTERDAY'S EDITION, PUBLISHED ON THEIR FRONT PAGES NEWS ITEMS AND PHOTOS ON THE ARRIVAL OF ASST. SECRETARY FOR INTERAMERICAN AFFAIRS, TERENCE A. TODMAN.

"HOY" ALSO PUBLISHED AN EDITORIAL, SOME COMMENTS FROM WHICH APPEAR BELOW.

AFTER POINTING OUT THE FACT THAT "MR. TODMAN IS THE FIRST HIGH LEVEL NORTHAMERICAN OFFICIAL TO ARRIVE IN BOLIVIA DURING THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION", THE EDITORIAL SPECULATES ON THE POSSIBLE TOPICS OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN MR. TODMAN AND GOB OFFICIALS AND GOES ON TO GIVE A CAPSULE COMMENTARY ON EACH THEME.

THE THEMES AND COMMENTS DISCUSSED ARE:

1) ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR BOLIVIAN DEVELOPMENT. "OUR AGRARIAN REFORM OF 1953... CONTINUES ON ITS COURSE AND THE COUNTRY FINDS  
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ITSELF MAKING LEAPS IN ITS STAGES OF PROGRESS IN AN ORDERLY PATTERN OF WORK, DETACHED FROM ALL THE DEMAGOGY THAT DID SO MUCH HARM TO OUR COUNTRY AND WHICH SO DELAYED ITS PROGRESS".

2) REDUCTION IN COCA CULTIVATION. "COCA HAS BEEN CULTIVATED IN OUR COUNTRY FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS AND ITS MINIMAL AND METHODICAL CONSUMPTION AMONG THE NATIVE AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF OUR COUNTRY

HAS MUCH TO DO WITH ITS QUALITIES OF NOURISHMENT AND THE WORK DONE IN FIELD AS WELL AND MINE. ANY PLAN WHICH IS DEVELOPED AND UNDERTAKEN TO DIMINISH COCA CULTIVATION SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THESE FACTORS AND ADEQUATE ECONOMIC COMPENSATION ASKED FOR BY OUR GROWERS UPON SUBSTITUTING CROPS".

3) U.S. PRISONERS IN BOLIVIAN JAILS ON NARCOTICS CHARGES. IT IS RIGHT THAT AMERICANS ARE IN JAIL "BECAUSE THEY COMMITTED CRIMES IN OUR COUNTRY, THEY WERE JUDGED ACCORDING TO BOLIVIAN LAWS AND COURTS, AND RECEIVE PUNISHMENT ACCORDING TO OUR LEGISLATION. ONE COULD ASK FOR THE SPEEDING UP OF THE JUDICIAL PROCESS, BUT SENTENCES MUST BE SERVED."

FINALLY, "HOY" MAKES THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "WE APPLAUD THE ARRIVAL OF MR. TODMAN AND HOPE FOR A ROUND OF USEFUL CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. AS SPOKESMEN, ALONG WITH OTHER NEWSPAPERS, OF NATIONAL SENTIMENT, WE SHOULD EXPRESS TO HIM THAT HIS VISIT PLEASES US, THAT HIS VISIT BE A PLEASANT ONE, AND ALSO SERVE TO INCREASE -- IF POSSIBLE -- HIS DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF THIS COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE, THAT WE CONSTITUTE A COMMUNITY OF PERSONS AND INSTITUTIONS WHICH TODAY PROUDLY MARCH TOWARD PROGRESS WITHIN A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT THAT MIGHT HAVE ITS IMPERFECTIONS, AS DO ALL SYSTEMS, BUT ONE WHICH IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE GIVEN THE HISTORICAL MOMENT AND THE NECESSITIES OF BOLIVIANS AT THIS TIME."

REGARDING THE SPECULATION ABOUT THE FREEING OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AS A RESULT OF MR. TODMAN'S VISIT, THE OTHER  
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PAPERS MENTIONED ABOVE ARE QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT NO AMNESTY IS POSSIBLE FOR COMMON CRIMINALS (ONLY POLITICAL ONES), THAT JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS WILL BE SPEEDED UP, AND THAT THE JUDGES IN THE COURT IN LA PAZ ARE GIVING PREFERENTIAL ATTENTION TO THESE PROCEEDINGS. ENDIT.  
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